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DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 1990/27, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities made a number of recommendations in connection with the economic and social relations between indigenous peoples and States. The Secretary-General was specifically requested to convene, as soon as possible, a meeting of experts on indigenous self-government and a technical conference on environmentally sound and sustainable self-development for indigenous peoples; to bring resolution 1990/27 to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as well as the chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference; to arrange for the Centre for Human Rights to enter into discussions with United Nations operational programmes in development and the environment; and to invite the World Intellectual Property Organization to prepare recommendations concerning the protection of the intellectual property of indigenous peoples. The Secretary-General has taken action on these recommendations as summarized below.

2. The meeting of experts on indigenous self-government, referred to in paragraph 3 (a) of Sub-Commission resolution 1990/27, will take place in Nuuk, Greenland, from 24 to 28 September 1991. In accordance with the recommendation of the resolution and following United Nations practice, expert participants are being invited from Governments and indigenous peoples' organizations. In connection with the request to convene a technical

conference on environmentally sound and sustainable self-development for indigenous peoples (paragraph 3 (a) of the resolution), it is the intention of the Secretary-General to organize a meeting during the first half of 1992; however, no venue for the conference has yet been decided.

3. On 10 December 1990, a letter was sent by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development drawing attention to the above-mentioned resolution and in particular to its paragraph 1. By decision 2/7 of the Preparatory Committee on its second session (see A/46/48), the Secretary-General of the Conference was requested, in preparing reports for future sessions of the Preparatory Committee, to take into account, inter alia, traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous people and other communities for the sustainable use, conservation, management and development of natural resources and their special relationship to the environment.

4. On 8 May 1991, a letter was sent by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights to the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization inviting WIPO to make recommendations concerning the intellectual property of indigenous peoples. Any reply the Centre for Human Rights receives from WIPO will be brought to the attention of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1991/6. On 17 May 1991, letters were also sent to United Nations organs and specialized agencies with operational programmes in development and environment drawing their attention to paragraph 3 (c) of resolution 1990/27.

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